

**Glenolden Animal Hospital would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your cat to our cat friendly hospital.**

We understand how stressful it can be to bring your cat in to the practice. Our goal is to reduce that stress associated with veterinary visits. We want to create a more positive experience for you and your cat, so they can get the care that they need.

### **HOW TO GET YOUR CAT PREPARED FOR THE VET VISIT**

The vet visit starts at home. It's very important for you as the cat owner to understand how to prepare your cat for their appointment. Here are a few tips to help:



1. Choose a carrier that is sturdy, secure and stable for the cat, as well as easy for you to carry. The best carriers are affordable and made of hard sided plastic that open from the top and front. You want one that can also be taken apart from the middle. It is recommended the carrier be left out in the household a few days prior to the vet visit to allow them to become familiar with it. Add a favorite blanket, towel, or bed the cat likes to help acclimate its use, reward the cat with its favorite treat when they are in the carrier.

2. Treat the carrier with pheromones such as Feliway spray or Feliway wipes 30 minutes prior to the visit, this helps keep the cat calm in the carrier during the travel time to the vet office. These products are available at our hospital. We encourage you to contact our office a few days prior to your visit. We would be happy to supply you with a Feliway wipe free of charge.

Some cats like to see out of their enclosure during car rides, whereas others are less anxious when the carrier is covered with a blanket or towel. This helps the cat stay calm. You may even treat the towel with the

Feliway product.

3. Carriers should be seat-belted into the car to keep the cat safe during transport. It also helps reduce the movement of the car ride. Limit FOOD ONLY for at least 2 hours prior to the visit. We prefer up to 12 hours, in case blood work is required. It also helps reduce the chance of car sickness.

\*\* We also prefer them on an empty stomach to have the ability to offer treats to encourage a more positive experience.

4. While waiting in the office, keep your cat in the carrier at all times, but sure to maintain eye contact and speak to them in a calm tone of voice. It's important you stay calm and focused.

5. Have your questions ready prior to your appointment for the doctor. It will help save time.



### **RETURNING HOME WITH YOUR CAT AFTER THE VISIT: (Especially Multi-Cat Households)**

Cats are very sensitive to scents. An unfamiliar scent can cause tension or aggressive behavior from one cat to another. Our hospital recommends all the cats from the household come into the office together. This will help to incorporate the same scent onto each cat and hopefully minimize behavior issues between them after the visit. It's also nice to have moral support when they come in for their doctor's appointment.

Following your cats visit to our hospital, whether it was an appointment, hospitalization, or boarding there will be an adjustment period back home. Here are some tips to follow to help calm your cat back in their home environment.

When you arrive home, leave the cat in the carrier and place the carrier

in a quiet area of the home for a few minutes so he or she can adjust to their surroundings. If all appears calm, allow the cat out of the carrier.

We suggest you continue to use the pheromones (Feliway) this can help provide comfort from the stressful experience of the car ride and being at the veterinary office.

If you have a multiple cat household and you have observed tension or conflict between your cats in the past, you may want to confine the cat in a separate room to avoid potential injury. Provide food, water and a litter box in the room with the cat for a few hours to regain a more normal surrounding in the home.

If there is still stress, consult the veterinary office to discuss option.

\*You are the most important member of our cat friendly team in helping your feline friend have a more relaxed veterinary experience.

